Writer's Checklist

1.0 version

Organization

Are your main points in a logical order?
Is each point supported with examples and quotes from the text?
Do you use transitions to move between each idea or point?

Ideas

Are your main points clearly stated?
Do you focus on depth over breadth?
Do your ideas relate to the topic and are they important?
Are your ideas accurate?

Voice

Is the writing engaging?
Does your writing sound like "you"?
Do you fulfill your purpose in the essay?
Does your style show that respect your audience?

Word Choice

Do you use words correctly?
Does your vocabulary vary?
Are your words thoughtful?

Sentence Fluency

Do you guide the reader with transitions?
Does each sentence move into the next?
Did you avoid jumping around or dropping in sentences that don't relate to the previous sentence?
Do your sentences use the ACTIVE VOICE most of the time?

Conventions

Did you follow basic grammar and punctuation rules?
Did you remove fragments and run-on sentences?
Did you use commas where appropriate?
Did you format your quotes correctly?
Did you use paragraphs correctly (breaking at the correct point, not using too many long or too many short ones, etc.)?

Presentation

Did you follow the formatting rules for your paper (title, indention, spacing, etc.)?

Literary Essay Writing

Did you quote from the text(s) enough?
Does each point have a specific example (or more) from the text?
Is each specific example linked to a specific point in the text through quoting?
Did you analyze the elements that you were assigned?
Is your thesis supported by your main points?
Is your thesis a true thesis statement?

Comparison Writing

Did you follow one of the two methods provided?
Were you clear as to your comparisons, using examples and explaining your thinking?
Did you remain unbiased and fair in your evaluation?
Did you select the most important points for discussion?